In conclusion, the member said that, as a result of partitions under the Nayar, Ezhava and Vellala Regulations, many members of those communities had been rendered landless. They should therefore be given *puduval* lands not exceeding 3 acres each at concessional rates on their application.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Madhavan Pillai, and Mr. Narayanan Nair, I shall have the report of your very interesting speeches communicated to the Unemployment Committee who, I am sure, will find your suggestions valuable. I shall also have them communicated to the Director of Agriculture and to the Director of Industries who, I am sure, will give to both of your suggestions patient attention.

155. Economic Development.

MR. JACOB CURIEN (*Member, Nominated*) said that he was glad to find that the attention of the Government had been drawn to the question of unemployment in the State. The appointment of a committee to suggest remedies for unemployment testified to the earnestness of the Government in the matter.

Passing on, he said that the Government were no doubt bestowing adequate attention to promotion of the health and education of the people in the country; but they had not realised that the quantity of food-stuffs produced in the State was not sufficient to meet the demands of the people. They had not also devised measures for increasing the resources of the country in view to supply the demands of an ever-increasing population. Statistics had shown that Rs. 2 crores worth of paddy and rice were being annually imported into the State but the value of the articles exported from the State was much less. It could not be denied that in Travancore there were enough lands to produce all the quantity of paddy which was being annually imported and that fact had been impressed upon the Government several times. It was as a result of such representations that the Government decided to disafforest the available areas for paddy cultivation. But it was regrettable to note that the disafforestation of a major portion of the lands selected by the Disafforestation Committees was objected to by the Conservator of Forests. Although nobody would object the reservation of valuable forests for scientific exploitation, it was necessary to set apart as much land as possible for paddy cultivation, especially when the people were suffering from want of arable land. Excluding forest areas, there were about a hundred thousand acres of land on the sides of backwaters which could be advantageously assigned for paddy cultivation. The matter should receive the earnest consideration of the Government inasmuch as the importation of a large quantity of paddy and other articles was sure to undermine the economic condition of the State.

Extension of railways was one of the means of removing the poverty of the people. The development of any country was due to the introduction of railways. An investment on railways was more profitable than an investment on industry. The extension of railways in the State should therefore be taken up at an early date.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Jacob Curien, the House like myself listened with great interest to all you had to say and all that you said so well. In particular I am pleased to find some one who has studied the question of railways in relation to roads and who has arrived at a settled opinion on the subject. Your other suggestions in the earlier part of your speech were also very instructive and I hope they have been taken down and will appear in the recorded proceedings.

The Assembly adjourned at 4-45 P. M. to meet again at 11 A. M. on Saturday, the 5th March, 1927.

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